

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 /086 W

-----240303Z 058004 /13

R 231605Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5260

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

USUN NEW YORK 1212

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0774

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ZA, CG, BE

SUBJ: ZAMBIAN POSITION ON BELGIAN AID TO ZAIRE

1. THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR TO LUSAKA DISCUSSED THE SHABA SITUATION WITH UNDERSECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS MANDA AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE. MANDA MADE THE FOLLOWING FOUR POINTS:

A. ZAMBIA CONSIDERS THE SHABA INVASION AS AN INTERNAL AFFAIR AMONG ZAIRIANS. THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT HAS TREATED SHABA PROVINCE BADLY FOR MANY YEARS AND THERE IS CONSIDERABLE RESENTMENT OF KINSHASA IN THE PROVINCE. EXPRESSIONS OF DISCONTENT ARE NOT ONLY MANIFESTED BY THE INVASION BUT HAVE ALSO BEEN REPORTED BY THE ZAMBIAN CONSUL GENERAL IN LUBUMBASHI.

B. ZAMBIA WILL THEREFORE MAINTAIN A POSITION OF NEUTRALITY IN THE MATTER.

C. ZAMBIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO BELGIAN ASSISTANCE SO LONG AS IT IS GIVEN TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING THE UNITY AND INTEGRITY OF ZAIRE.

D. EVEN IF IT WANTED TO, ZAMBIA ITSELF IS IN NO POSITION TO HELP BECAUSE OF LIMITATIONS ON ITS OWN RESOURCES.

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2. THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR COMMENTED THAT HE BELIEVED THIS WAS AN ACCURATE REFLECTION OF THE ZAMBIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD WESTERN ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE. HE AGREED THAT THE MORE NEGATIVE VIEW TOWARDS WESTERN ASSISTANCE EXPRESSED BY THE PRESS OVER THE WEEKEND (LUSAKA 0742 AND 0750) MAY HAVE BEEN STIMULATED BY THE GRZ BUT HE CONSIDERED THAT IT WAS

PROBABLY MEANT FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION ON THE EVE OF THE  
CASTRO/PODGORNY VISITS RATHER THAN FOR WESTERN GOVERNMENTS.

COMMENT: THIS MAY BE AN ACCURATE REFLECTION OF GRZ ATTITUDE  
TOWARDS WESTERN ASSISTANCE AT THIS POINT. HOWEVER, IT  
REMAINS CLEAR THAT ZAMBIA'S CHIEF MOTIVATION CONTINUES  
TO BE THAT OF KEEPING ITSELF AS FAR FROM THE CONFLICT AS IT  
CAN. LOW

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** MILITARY ASSISTANCE, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009